

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-02 NSC-05 SY-04 SCCT-01 USSS-00

FBIE-00 PRS-01 CPR-01 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SSO-00 /044 W

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P 031553Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 487

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 2378

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINR SL US

SUBJECT: ALLEGED PLOT TO KIDNAP MEMBERS OF EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE

REF: A. STATE 262144 B. STATE 263228 C. STATE 263328

1. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT NOTIFICATION OF ALLEGED PLOT. NEITHER MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS NOR ANY OTHER OFFICE OR AGENCY OF GOSL HAS AS YET MENTIONED ANY OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS TO EMBASSY, INCLUDING ASSAULT ON KAMARA-TAYLOR IN NEW YORK OR REPORTS ALLEGEDLY PICKED UP IN SIERRA LEONE.

2. EMBASSY WILL REPORT BY NIACT IMMEDIATE SHOULD GOSL CARRY OUT EXECUTIONS UNEXPECTEDLY, BUT INDICATIONS HERE TO NOT SUGGEST THIS LIKELY POSSIBILITY. ATTORNEY GENERAL BUCK TOLD CHARGE LAST WEEK THAT ALL 15 CONVICTED IN TREASON TRIAL HAVE FILED APPEALS THUS AUTOMATICALLY POSTPONING ANY EXECUTION OF DEATH SENTENCES UNTIL APPEAL HEARD BY REQUIRED THREE-JUDGE PANEL. OTHER BUT LESS AUTHORITATIVE REPORT INDICATE GOSL WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY CONVENING PANEL UNTIL AFTER BEGINNING OF YEAR AND NOTE THAT PANEL WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME REVIEW TRANSCRIPT OF 69-DAY TRIAL.

3. FARTHER OVER TOWARD CATEGORY OF RUMOR IS INCREASING SPECULATION THAT DEFENDENTS, OR AT LEAST SOME OF THEM, MAY NOT

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BE EXECUTED AT ALL. THIS LINE OF SPECULATION NOTES THAT TEN OF 15

CONVICTED IN TRIAL, INCLUDING LEADING ACCUSED FORNA, ARE OF TEMNE TRIBAL ORIGIN AND THAT VICE PRESIDENT KOROMA, RANKING TEMNE IN GOSL, WOULD FACE SERIOUS POLITICAL DIFFICULTY AMONG TEMNES IF HE PERMITTED TEMNES TO BE EXECUTED. EMBASSY IS AWARE OF SOME OTHER INDEPENDENT INDICATIONS OF DISCONTENT IN TEMNE POPULATED AREAS AT PROSPECTIVE EXECUTIONS. RULING APC, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, IS STILL MAINLY A TEMNE POLITICAL VEHICLE AND TEMNES PROVIDE ITS STRONGEST SUPPORT DESPITE APC EFFORTS BRING ALL ELEMENTS OF POPULATION INTO PARTY FOLD.

4. INTERESTING NOTE IN THIS REGARD THAT RECENTLY PUBLISHED LIST OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF VARIOUS OFFICES AND MINISTRIES OF GOSL HAS PLACED AMNESTY AND CLEMENCY FUNCTION WITHIN PURVIEW OF OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT/PRIME MINISTER RATHER THAN, AS PREVIOUSLY, IN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT. IF KOROMA IN FACT UNDER PRESSURE FROM TEMNE SUPPORTERS TO STAY EXECUTIONS AND REDUCE SENTENCES, THIS DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY MAY PROVE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN EVENTUAL OUTCOME.

5. IF DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION, I THINK IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF I RAISE MATTER WITH MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, NOTING SL EMBASSY'S APPROACH TO DEPT, INFORMING THEM OF STEPS ALREADY TAKEN BY EXECUTIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICE AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE, ASSURING THEM OF USG CONCERN AND DESIRE COOPERATE FULLY IN PROVIDING ANY NECESSARY ADDITIONAL SECURITY FOR AMBASSADOR PALMER AND MR. AND MRS. HARDING, AND REQUESTING EMBASSY HERE BE KEPT QUIETLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN TREASON TRIAL AFTERMATH OR ANY FURTHER THREATS, IN ORDER THAT SECURITY AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON MAY BE ALERTED TO ANY POSSIBLE NEED FOR FURTHER INCREASED PROTECTION FOR GOSL PERSONNEL. DWISE.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, PLOTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ARRESTS, COURTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLEGED PLOT TO KIDNAP MEMBERS OF EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINR, SL, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005